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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/623,839

07/16/2003

Ramanujan K. Valmiki

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05/10/2006

MCANDREWS HELD & MALLOY, LTD
500 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 3400
CHICAGO, IL 60661

EXAMINER

SAJOUS, WESNER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2628

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/623,839

Applicant(s)

VALMIKI ET AL.

Examiner

Sajous Wesner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 7 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,8,12 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,6,9,11 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/25/05, 6-7-04, 6-21-04, 8-9-04, 1-25-06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to the amendments and response dated on 4/10/06. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 1 and 8 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Takabatake (EP 1085465). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Remark

2. Claimed limitations are too broad. They fail to show how the processings of the header and layer data are performed. The Examiner attempted to contact the Applicant's attorney to discuss the claimed features and discuss possible claim amendments, but the Applicant's client could not be reached

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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4. Claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 15, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takabatake (EP 1085465).

Considering claim 1, Watanabe discloses a method of decoding MPEG data comprising a plurality of macroblocks, each macroblock comprising a header and block layer data (see ¶s 15-19), the method comprises decoding the header of at least one macroblock using first processing element (e.g. via the header decoder, see item 2 of fig. 15); and decoding the block layer data of said at least one macroblock using a second processing element (using a data processor, as depicted by item 4 of fig. 15). See ¶s 60 and 73-75.

Re claim 4, Takabatake discloses variable length decoding. See fig. 12.

System claim 8 is analogous to the method of claim 1; it is, therefore similarly rejected.

As per claim 10, Takabatake inherently discloses a system (see item 1212 of fig. 12) implemented in an integrated circuit. (Note that since fig. 12 in Takabatake comprises a series of interconnected circuit elements (see fig. 15), it therefore encompasses an integrated circuit.)

As per claim 12, Takabatake discloses a decoding system (see fig. 17) comprising a switch (23) wherein the first processing element (e.g., *items 321 &* decodes the header of said at least one macroblock and the switch provides the block layer data of said at least one macroblock to the second processing element for decoding.

Claim 15 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 4.

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As per claim 16, Takabatake discloses reading (1, fig. 15) the MPEG data from memory and providing the MPEG data to the first processing element (as depicted by fig. 15).

5. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takabatake in view of Bebler et al. (US 6229853).

As per claim 17, it is noted that although Takabatake the processing of digital data (see fig. 1), Watanabe fails specifically teach receiving HDTV video data.

Bebler teaches receiving HDTV video data. See fig. 1 and col. 2, lines 51-52.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the MPEG data system of Takabatake to include the reception of HDTV video data, in order to provide a high definition digital video signal for display.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 9, 11, 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, because the prior art of record fail to teach a method of decoding MPEG data comprising a plurality of macroblocks with header and block layer data by receiving a plurality of rows of the MPEG data, each row comprising the plurality

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of macroblocks, wherein decoding the header comprises decoding the header of a first macroblock on a first one of the plurality of rows while concurrently decoding the block layer data of a second macroblock on a second one of the plurality of rows.

Claims 7 and 14 are allowed over the prior art for the same reasons indicated in the previous office action.

Conclusion

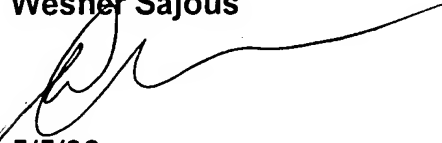
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sajous Wesner whose telephone number is 571-272-7791. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays thru Fridays between 10:30 and 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on 571-272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wesner Sajous

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesner Sajous', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

5/5/06